



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 28, 1987

Mr. Neils Haubold
Manager of Mines
UMETCO Minerals Corporation
P.O. Box 1029
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Dear Mr. Haubold:

Re: Recommendations, LaSal-Snowball (M/037/026) and Hecla Shaft
(M/037/043)

I would like to again extend my thanks to Frank Barnet for taking the time to show me around UMETCO's LaSal operations last month. Your surface facilities were clean, and no safety or environmental problems were noted. I have several recommendations which are listed below. These are suggestions only, and do not require implementation.

1. Test Plots - It is necessary that a reclaimed mine site obtain 70 percent of the original ground cover prior to bond release. This will be especially difficult to achieve in the case of the Snowball site because of the large waste piles and no stockpiled topsoil. The LaSal test plot, that was fertilized and mulched, has a fair amount of crested wheat grass growing on it. This growth, however, is not even close to 70 percent of the original ground cover. I think that it would be in UMETCO's best interests to experiment a little more, especially with the shrubs (i.e., rabbit brush, shadscale, fourwing, and sagebrush) which provide greater ground cover than grasses.
2. Vegetation is beginning to return to the stripped area around the Hecla Shaft waste pile. The remaining subsoil material obviously has some growth potential. It is recommended that you stockpile this material before expanding the waste pile.

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Mr. Neils Haubold

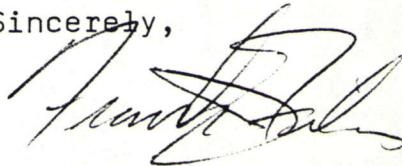
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3. There is a minor runoff problem associated with the Snowball waste pile. Frank Barnett suggested placing a berm or sedimentation pond at the base of the waste pile in an area adjacent to the road. I think that this would be an excellent idea.

If you should have any questions about these recommendations, or need additional information, I can be reached at the phone number below.

Sincerely,



Frank Filas
Reclamation Engineer
(801) 538-5264

clj

cc: L. Braxton

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